

from Journal of the First Voyage to America by Christopher Columbus
Grammar and Style: Action Verbs and Linking Verbs

Action verbs express physical or mental action. **Linking verbs** express a state of being and are followed either by a noun or pronoun that renames the subject or by an adjective that describes it.

Action Verb: I went ashore.

Linking Verb: Everything *looked* green.

While writers must make use of both action and linking verbs, action verbs generally make writing more lively.

A. PRACTICE: *Underline the verb in each sentence. Then, on the line before the sentence, write AV if the verb is an action verb or LV if it is a linking verb.*

- _____ 1. Groves of lofty trees were abundant.
- _____ 2. At one of the lakes, I saw a snake.
- _____ 3. We followed it for some distance.
- _____ 4. The water did not look deep.
- _____ 5. We dispatched it with our lances.

B. Writing Application: *Read each sentence, and determine if it contains an action verb or a linking verb. Then, on the lines provided, write a related sentence with the type of verb that does not appear in the first sentence. An example has been completed for you.*

Example: The melody of the birds was exquisite. [Was is a linking verb.]

Related: The birds *chirped* an exquisite melody. [Chirped is an action verb.]

1. Columbus's journal is a marvelous document.

2. His descriptions capture the lush splendor of the Caribbean islands.

3. His long time at sea seems particularly tense.

4. Columbus made several subsequent journeys to the "new" world.
